

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are currently pending. Claim 2 has been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4 and 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2002-351786 to Maeda (hereinafter “the ‘786 reference”) in view of JP 06-348628 to Yamaguchi (hereinafter “the ‘628 reference”) in view of JP 11-163924 to Tanaka (hereinafter “the ‘924 reference”); and Claims 5-7, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘786 reference in view of the ‘628 reference and the ‘924 reference, further in view of JP 2002-208960 to Masui (hereinafter “the ‘960 reference”).

In addition to the amendments set forth in the Amendment filed August 4, 2009, Claim 2 has been amended herewith. Support for the change to Claim 2 can be found on page 22 of the specification.

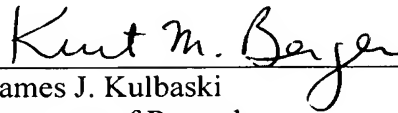
For at least the reasons stated in the Amendment filed August 4, 2009, regarding Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that amended dependent Claim 2 patentably defines over the cited references.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 8 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the cited references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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